

## HAD FAMOUS POISON

DREAD SECRET POSSESSED BY  
LAST OF THE BORGAS.

Simple Mixture Carrying Certain  
Death and Impossible of Detection  
Came Down to Him from the Middle  
Ages—How It Might Be Well Used.

Blaze de Bury, after reviewing the claims of the wife of a certain Italo-American to the title of the "last countess of Borgia," tells a most interesting story about the last male descendant of the famous poisoning family, says the Louisville Courier-Journal.

"He was named Duke Riario-Sforza, and a well-known figure in the Paris grand opera. As our subscription seats adjoined, I met him there two or three nights a week, and gradually the duke began to honor me with his friendship. One evening he said:

"If it wasn't for music, my only passion, I would have dispensed with life long ago. Burdened as I am with the knowledge of my family's secrets, I know little comfort."

"Then he told me that he was in possession of the formula for making 'Cutarella,' the poison by which the Borgias rid themselves of their enemies and of persons whose fortunes or wives they coveted. 'The secret has descended from father to son through ten centuries and more. If I had a legitimate son I would have to impart it to him before I die, says the family tradition. To avoid that dreadful responsibility I never married.' The poison, he explained, was 'rather a simple mixture,' and it was hard to believe that no chemist ever found or rediscovered the formula. 'The poison,' he said, 'carries with it inevitable death, but no court of law and no expert physician is able to detect any symptoms of violence in the victim's body. Hence the Cutarella is the prince of poisons, just the poison for statesmen and kings to handle.

"My formula provides either for sudden or for lingering death, according to the poisoner's wishes. I could make you drop dead in an instant by a handshake, or by a drop of liquid poured in your water or coffee, and I might sentence you to perish by inches, to burn up alive, etc."

Blaze de Bury calls the duke a "theoretical philosopher of murder." He once said: "The truly great and just man, a man without egotism and without axes to grind, might become a great aid to justice by the possession of the Cutarella secret. The Borgias used the poison as a vehicle for their ambition and greed—it might be used to rid the world of a lot of secret criminals and vampires, laughing at the law. Justice, as we understand it, does not punish one-third of the crimes committed. Numerous perpetrators escape by technicalities, by bribery, by accident. Now, suppose that the possessor of the Cutarella secret hunts down such men and women and rid the world of them. Suppose he makes himself the instrument of vengeance for wronged women, for men driven to despair, for children robbed and betrayed by their guardians. Suppose he would take it upon himself to kill faithless kings and ministers that oppress the people. Suppose the Cutarella proprietor would go to Russia and do the work of the revolutionists there. What a grand prospect!"

"Has your grace ever conceived that mission?" asked the author.

"When I was young I sometimes considered its advisability," replied the duke. "But I was never a hero, never a great moralist. Besides, I felt that I had no particular knowledge of character. I might have executed more innocent people than guilty ones. And so I concluded to let the secret of the vengeance poison sleep. Since I came into possession of the formula it was never put in operation. And it never shall. I won't use it even on myself. If horror of life ever seizes me I shall die by a pistol shot."

Soon after the last male Borgis actually killed himself with a revolver

## Growth of Colleges

In the future the competition between the older endowed universities and colleges, on the one hand, and the state universities on the other, is likely to become much keener than it is today. Heroin is to be found a possible limitation of the student body at the older institutions which may continue in force for some years. That Harvard, Yale, Princeton and such splendid smaller institutions of learning as Williams, Amherst and Dartmouth have reached their maximum of growth we do not, for a moment, believe.—Hartford Times.

## A Press Bureau for the Vatican

Pope Pius X contemplates founding an official press news office in the Cancellaria palace for supplying vatican news to correspondents. The idea was suggested to him by Cardinal Merry Del Val and it likely to save the holy father from much of the annoyance he is experiencing now through the circulation of unfounded rumors and the presentation of views inimical to vatican interests.

## ITCHING SCALP HUMOR.

Lady Suffered Tortures Until Cured  
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"My scalp was covered with little pimples and I suffered tortures from the itching. I was scratching all day and night, and I could get no rest. I washed my head with hot water and Cuticura Soap and then applied the Cuticura Ointment as a dressing. One box of the Ointment and one cake of Cuticura Soap cured me. Now my head is entirely clear and my hair is growing splendidly. I have used Cuticura Soap ever since, and shall never be without it. (Signed) Ada C. Smith, 309 Grand St., Jersey City, N. J."

## Inherited Stupidity

"I think there is more inherited stupidity at large than there was a hundred years ago," says Prof. Karl Pearson. "The obvious reason is that the stupid and foolish are now much better looked after than they were 100 years ago; they have a high rate of fertility, and their offspring are allowed to survive and marry in increasing numbers. So far as the stupidity which is curable by education is concerned, we are certainly better off than our forefathers, but in the matter of actual deficiencies and degenerates, whose mental defects are of physical origin quite the reverse is the case."

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